

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **13 July 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26 and 29-33. Claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26, and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson et al (USPN 6,853,988, hereinafter "Dickinson").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 12, and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Dickinson. Applicant respectfully points out that Dickinson teaches allowing **different organizations** to access the trust engine (see Dickinson, col. 18, line 57 to col. 19, line 9).

In contrast, the present invention maintains control of the signature server and the authority server **within the organization** (see FIG. 1 and page 5, lines 13-15 of the instant application). This is beneficial because it provides an extra level of security which is not available in Dickinson. By intermingling access to the trust engine from different organizations, Dickinson provides a point of attack to the security system. There is nothing within Dickinson, either explicit or implicit, which suggests maintaining control of the signature server and the authority server within the organization.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23 to clarify that the present invention maintains control of the signature server and the authority server within the organization. These amendments find support in FIG. 1 and on page 5, lines 13-15 of the instant application


Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 23 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 4 and 7-11, which depend upon claim 1, claims 15 and 18-22, which depend upon claim 12, and claims 26 and 29-33, which depend upon

claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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